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<div>(84) Designated Contracting States: AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC NL PT SE Designated Extension States: AL LT LV MK RO SI</div> <div>(30) Priority: 03.10.1997 GB 9721008</div> <div>(71) Applicant: Hewlett-Packard Company, A Delaware Corporation Palo Alto, CA 94304 (US)</div>	<div>(72) Inventor: Romans, Christopher Gwyn Clevedon, North Somerset, BS21 7XA (GB)</div> <div>(74) Representative: Coker, David Graeme et al Hewlett-Packard Limited Intellectual Property Section Building 2 Filton Road Stoke Gifford, Bristol BS34 8QZ (GB)</div>
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(54) Power management method for use in a wireless local area network (LAN)

(57) In a wireless network containing battery powered stations, one station is designated as a control point (CP). Each of the remaining stations has two operating modes: an active mode in which it receives and transmits messages, and an inactive or sleep mode which incurs reduced power consumption. The Control Point periodically transmits a beacon signal, and each station switches to its active mode to receive at least some of these beacon signals. A beacon signal may indicate that data is available for transmission to a particular station (from another station), in which case that particular station then broadcasts a message to indicate that it is awake and can receive messages. A beacon signal also indicates whether a broadcast period is in progress, and time to elapse until a next possible broadcast period will commence; if the Control Point has previously received and stored any broadcast messages it will re-broadcast them during the next following broadcast period and the remaining stations will react by remaining in active mode for the duration of that period.

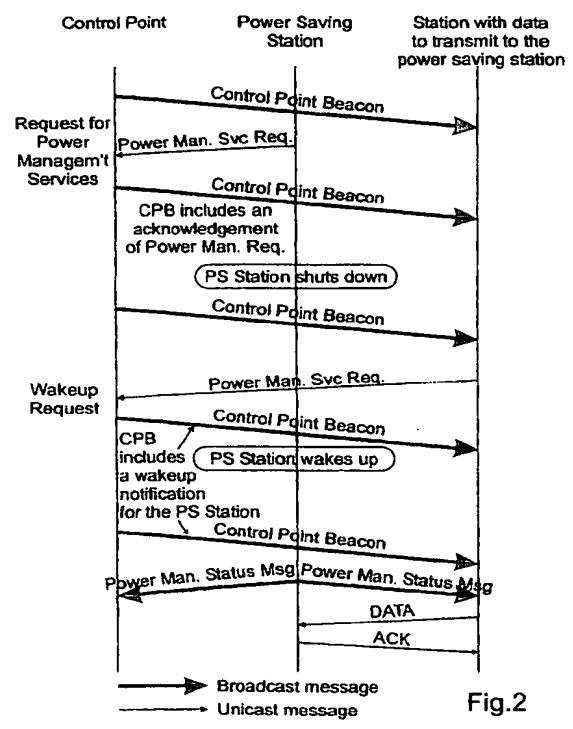


Fig.2

EP 0 907 262 A3



European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 98 30 7654

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
A	SIVALINGAM K M ET AL: "Low power link and access protocols for wireless multimedia networks" VEHICULAR TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE, 1997, IEEE 47TH PHOENIX, AZ, USA 4-7 MAY 1997, NEW YORK, NY, USA, IEEE, US, 4 May 1997 (1997-05-04), pages 1331-1335, XP010229012 ISBN: 0-7803-3659-3 * abstract * * paragraph '0003! * -----	1-5	H04B7/005 H04Q7/38 H04L12/28
A	US 5 371 734 A (FISCHER MICHAEL A) 6 December 1994 (1994-12-06) * abstract * * column 5, line 9 - column 6, line 68 * -----	1-5	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) H04B H04L
A	US 5 583 866 A (DEMANGE MARK G ET AL) 10 December 1996 (1996-12-10) * abstract * * column 2, line 20 - column 3, line 10 * * column 6, line 24 - column 7, line 2 * * column 20, line 12 - line 33 * -----	1-5	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
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CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

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